



Robots (bots) have been crippling the performance of the PURL application and hindering the ability of GPO's cataloging staff to create or modify PURLs. GPO is committed to making the PURL server publicly available. In order to ensure access, we recently completed a successful test of new protocols that are designed to restore performance and access to the application. This change has implications for link checkers and other bots that are utilized by our users and the library community.

While the server has a robot protocol in place, a variety of bots were identified that are violating its protocol and accessing the application during peak GPO work hours. The PURL server's robot protocol allows for bot access from **8PM through 5AM EST**. Meanwhile, the protocol further limits the page request rate to a maximum of **one page every five seconds**, regardless of time of day.

Currently, all known bots (malicious and non-malicious) have been blacklisted by the system. GPO is not seeking to block access to the PURL application, unless the bot is malicious in nature (e.g., email address harvesters) or refuses to adhere to the robot rule. If your bot has been blocked in error, please use this [form](#) to request that your bot be added to our whitelist.